

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

COLLINS SYLVESTER WILLIAMS,  
JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

THURSTON COUNTY  
FAMILY/JUVENILE COURT,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C14-5694 BHS

ORDER ADOPTING REPORT  
AND RECOMMENDATION

This matter comes before the Court on the Report and Recommendation (“R&R”) of the Honorable Karen L. Strombom, United States Magistrate Judge (Dkt. 6), and Plaintiff Collins Sylvester Williams Jr.’s (“Williams”) objections to the R&R (Dkt. 7).

On September 24, 2014, Judge Strombom issued the R&R recommending that the Court dismiss Williams’s complaint for failure to name a proper defendant and for failure to state a claim. Dkt. 6. On October 8, 2014, Williams filed objections requesting that the Court substitute defendants and arguing that his constitutional rights have been violated. Dkt. 7.

1 The district judge must determine de novo any part of the magistrate judge's  
2 disposition that has been properly objected to. The district judge may accept, reject, or  
3 modify the recommended disposition; receive further evidence; or return the matter to the  
4 magistrate judge with instructions. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3).

5 In this case, Williams fails to state a claim no matter what defendant is named.  
6 Williams's claim is based on the assertion that, while he was a pretrial detainee, he had a  
7 right to either be released or transported to family court to participate in a child custody  
8 hearing. Dkt. 7. Although Judge Strombom concluded that a pretrial detainee has no  
9 right to be transported to litigate unrelated civil actions, this law only applies to prisoners  
10 who have been convicted. *Simmons v. Sacramento County Superior Court*, 318 F.3d  
11 1156, 1160 (9th Cir. 2003) ("a prisoner has no constitutional right of access to the courts  
12 to litigate an unrelated civil claim."). On the other hand, Williams, who is a pretrial  
13 detainee, has a substantive due process right against restrictions that amount to  
14 punishment. *United States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 746 (1987). Williams, however,  
15 fails to allege that the failure to transport him was based on a punitive measure and "[a]n  
16 official's refusal to transport a detainee to court for a civil trial that is unrelated to the  
17 cause or conditions of the detention has a rational alternative purpose." *Simmons*, 318  
18 F.3d at 1161. Therefore, Williams fails to state a claim for denial of due process.

19 The Court having considered the R&R, Williams's objections, and the remaining  
20 record, does hereby find and order as follows:

21 (1) The R&R is **ADOPTED**;

22 (2) Williams's complaint is **DISMISSED**; and

1 (3) The Clerk shall dismiss this case.

2 Dated this 4th day of November, 2014.

3  
4 

5 BENJAMIN H. SETTLE  
6 United States District Judge  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22